

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on December 13, 2002. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 15-17. ***This Amendment cancels claim 18*** -- without prejudice to its reassertion in this or a continuing application -- in order to expedite prosecution. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment in order to place the application into condition for allowance, or into better condition for appeal, is respectfully solicited.

If there are any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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